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The Balance, AND COLUMBIAN REPOSITORY.

" HAIL SACRED POLITY, BY FREEDOM REAR'D !
" HAIL SACRED FREEDOM, WHEN BY LAW RESTRAIN'D !"
BEATTIE.

HUDSON, (New-York) TUESDAY, December 13, 1803.

Original Eſſays.

Hither the products of your closet-labors bring,
Enrich our columns, and instruct mankind.

FOR THE BALANCE.

POLITICAL SKETCHES.

No. IX.

IN no age of the world, has there been witneſſed an experiment ſo *important* in itſelf, and involving conſequences of ſuch immenſe magnitude, as that which is now making in theſe States. " It has been frequently remarked, (ſays a very intelligent and excellent writer,*) that it ſeems to have been reſerved to the people of this country, by their conduct and example, to decide the important queſtion, whether ſocieties of men are really capable or not, of eſtabliſhing good government from reflection and choice, or whether they are forever deſtined to depend, for their political conſtitutions, on accident and force."

Many and ſingular were the advantages, under which republican inſtitutions have been formed and eſtabliſhed in this favoured land. The hand of Heaven has drawn a line of demarcation, that ſeperates us from the other nations of the earth, and ſets us at a happy diſtance from the contamination of their examples and from the fangs of their power. We ſpeak the ſame language; we profeſs the ſame religion—a religion that inculcates all thoſe humane principles, all thoſe ſocial affections, all thoſe moral virtues, which refine and exalt human nature, which alone can give durability to liberty conjoined with order, and which powerfully tend to render nations, as well as individuals, proſperous and happy. We enjoy a country worthy of a race of freemen, ſpacious, fruitful, capable of yielding almoſt every uſeful and pleaſant production, combining almoſt every advantage for agriculture, manufactures and commerce. The Atlantic, the Miſſiſſippi, and the chain of Lakes, like a vaſt *hoop*, environ it; and the voice of nature ſeems to proclaim, that it ought to belong to one undivided people. A powerful cauſe operated in uniting together the diſtant parts and disjointed ſegments of this extenſive nation, and forming them into one great whole. In the *colonial* ſtate of this country, ſuch jealouſies ſubſiſted between the people of the ſeveral colonies, ſuch local prejudices, ſuch antipathies againſt each other had long feſtered in their hearts, that a union was deemed impracticable: yet this apparent impoſſibility was effected by an event ſeemingly the moſt inauſpicious. The revolutionary ſtruggle preſenting to the whole country a common cauſe, a common intereſt, and a common danger, linked together hearts, which, from colonial prejudices, had been totally eſtranged to each other. The men of the *South* were brought to harmonize with the hardy ſons of the *Eaſt*; they became a band of brothers; and " by their joint counſels, arms, and efforts, fighting ſide by ſide throughout a long and bloody war, they nobly eſtabliſhed their general liberty and independence."

The more difficult taſk, however, ſtill remained to be atchieved.—The feeble ties of the old confederation, which, during the times of common danger, had helped to keep the ſtates together, were found, ſoon after that danger was removed, to be utterly ineffectual and nugatory; and our nation exhibited the hideous appearance of a many-headed monſter. Thirteen petty ſovereignties, nominally united, but practically divided, yielding to no national controul, purſuing each, its own local ſelfiſh intereſts, ſoon brought the country into a condition of degradation and wretchedneſs, and to the brink of horrible anarchy and utter ruin; from which it was ſaved, or at leaſt reſpited, by an eſtabliſhment of a new order of things. Public adverſity, in this inſtance, as it led to an improvement in political arrangements, had a uſeful effect. A woeful experience of the calamities of diſunion, evinced the neceſſity of an efficient national government and gave riſe to the federal conſtitution.

In the inſtance of the formation of this conſtitution, there was witneſſed, probably for the firſt time ſince the world begun, a convention of delegates fairly choſen, repreſenting the ſeveral diſtricts of a widely extended country, each of them individually intereſted in the public liberty and proſperity, highly diſtinguiſhed many of them for patriotiſm and political wiſdom, poſſeſſing the public confidence, having before them every inſtructive document that could be drawn from the hiſtory of ancient and modern republics—who without meeting with intruſion, interruption, or any incident that might awe or diſcompoſe them, paſſed ſeveral months in diligent, cool and patient conſultations, and at length, by their joint efforts and al-

* *The Federaliſt.*

moſt unanimous counſels, produced the plan which they conceived moſt practicable and beſt adapted to the circumſtances and general intereſt of the nation. Such a concurrence of favourable circumſtances in forming a conſtitution of national government, together with its ſubſequent adoption by the ſtates, was a conſummation that was devoutly wiſhed for, rather than ſeriouſly expected. Nor is it to be thought a circumſtance of inconſiderable importance, that, in the firſt movements and operations of this free republican government, and during eight years of vaſt difficulty and danger, there was placed at the head of it, by the unanimous ſuffrages of his fellow citizens, that "Miracle of men," George Waſhington—a man, who, both in the camp and in the cabinet, was greateſt among the great, whom prudence never forſook, whom partial, local and ſelfiſh views never warped from a ſteady purſuit of the general good, whoſe unſullied honour, whoſe inflexible integrity, whoſe pre-eminent virtues ſhed a luſtre on human nature.

All this falls far ſhort of the ſum total of the pre-eminent advantages for the maintenance of republican freedom, which our nation enjoys. It can avail itſelf of all real improvements, both ancient and modern, in political ſcience. It can avail itſelf of the miſconduct, misfortunes and awful cataſtrophes of all former republics: their hiſtories is our monitor.—By the art of printing, books of inſtruction can be indefinitely multiplied, and afforded ſo cheap as to be attainable by all claſſes of people. Through the medium of the preſs, and by mails, (a modern invention) every kind of neceſſary intelligence may be circulated, from one extremity of the country to the other, with facility and expedition.

If, notwithſtanding all theſe favourable circumſtances, free republicaniſm in this country ſhould prove to be impracticable or ſhort-lived, our national misfortune, in ſuch an awful event, would naturally lead to the moſt gloomy and deſpairing apprehenſions, reſpecting the future political condition of mankind generally; becauſe few or no caſes could be expected ever to happen, in which free governments might be eſtabliſhed with any proſpects of ſucceſs.

Balance Closet.

From the Aurora Borealis, or Albany Register.

"Accounts from *Waſhington* ſtate, that the propoſed Amendment to the Conſtitution, which provides for an orderly, peaceable, juſt and honorable mode of electing our Chief Magiſtrate, is oppoſed, in the Senate, from an unexpected quarter, and will be defeated, unleſs Gen. *Sumpter*, from South-Carolina, or Gen. *Armſtrong*, from this ſtate, ſhould, on arriving at the ſeat of government, join the advocates of the meaſure. That Gen. *Armſtrong* will advocate it, we have the beſt aſſurances, and therefore, are under no apprehenſion for its final ſucceſs, however its paſſage may be clogged at preſent by the oppoſition of one or two individuals, who claim the character of *republicans* while they are acting a part the beſt calculated to reſtore the reign of *federaliſm*. There is a ſpirit of intrigue abroad, fraught with deſtruction to the true Republican Intereſt of the United States; and what is moſt to be regretted, this intriguing ſpirit has manifeſted itſelf in a *few* who have hitherto pretended to ſtand up for the rights of their fellow-citizens. Some proofs of this, have already been exhibited—and an additional poof is now ſeen in the oppoſition of *pretended* republicans to the amendment in queſtion. The man who oppoſes this meaſure cannot be a republican; he cannot be a friend to Mr. Jefferſon's adminiſtration; he cannot be a friend to order or good government—and his conſtituents ought not to heſitate a moment in putting him down for an enemy to the *purity* which conſtitutes the *freedom* of elections—an enemy to *republicaniſm*, a fomenter of intrigue, and one who is willing to leave room for *uſurpation* to ſeize the reins of government, and jeopardize the freedom and happineſs of his country. Let the *little band* of intriguers, however, who under the maſk of *republicaniſm* are ſtriving to counteract the *will* of the *majority*—and who for that purpoſe are courting the ſmiles and the auſpices of *federaliſm*: Let them, we ſay, recollect, that the ſound republicans of the Union are too numerous, too enlightened, and too determined on the preſervation of their freedom, to be made the dupes and victims of the arts of hypocriſy."

REMARKS.

The above paragraph actually appears first under the editorial head of the paper of John Barber, "Printer to the state;" and if we could, for a moment, believe it to be the production of his own pen, we could hardly reſtrain our laughter. Of all the coblers and tinkers that ever undertook to mend a conſtitution, we know of none that would be more likely to cut a ridiculous figure than John Barber. That this man ſhould make uſe of the language above quoted, and oppoſe his opinion to that of the ſages who framed and adopted our conſtitution, and of thoſe in the Senate, who now cling to that inſtrument, is truly laughable. But, we are too well acquainted with the ſtyle and manner of a certain great character, to believe that John Barber wrote the paragraph which we have copied from his paper. Barber is made the ſame uſe of, by this great character, in Albany, that Holt was in Hudſon: But the ſheep-ſkin will not wholly conceal the wolf—his teeth and claws will peep out from beneath his covering, and expoſe him: We turn, therefore, from Mr. Barber and apply our remarks to the real author of the paragraph.

The obſervation, "that the propoſed amendment to the conſtitution, is oppoſed in the Senate from an *unexpected* quarter," is deſerving of ſome attention, as it ſerves to ſhew what republican notions the democrats entertain with reſpect to the right of opinion, and the freedom of ſentiment. It furniſhes concluſive proof, that the party ſtyling themſelves republicans, are the moſt decided ariſtocrats in the world. From this remark, it was evidently *expected*, that every meaſure propoſed by the leaders of the predominant faction in the United States, would be promptly carried into effect—it was *expected* that every mandate of the chief, would be implicitly obeyed—it was *expected* that every perſon, who profeſſed democracy, would join, heart and hand, to promote the views of the party, without any regard to his conſcience or opinion—it was, therefore, *expected*, that no democrat in the national legiſlature, would dare to oppoſe an amendment to the conſtitution, which would give to a faction, already too powerful, ſtill more power. We rejoice, however, to find that there are ſome democrats who maintain an independence of opinion which will not bow to the dagon of a faction—an upright few, a "little band," that the bribery of office cannot corrupt, nor the imprecations of a terroriſt, intimidate.

That "there is a ſpirit of intrigue abroad, fraught with deſtruction to the true republican intereſt of the United States," we ſhall not deny; nor will it be denied, that "this intriguing ſpirit has manifeſted itſelf in a few [a great number] who have hitherto pretended to ſtand up for the rights of their fellow-citizens." With regret and indignation have we ſeen a party ſtyling themſelves republicans—a party remarkable for *pretenſions*—a party profeſſing the utmoſt regard for the rights of the people, manifeſting a ſpirit of intrigue which is indeed "fraught with deſtruction to the *true* republican intereſt."—The remark which falls from our paragraphiſt, with reſpect to Gen. Armſtrong, may be conſidered as ſome proof of this intriguing ſpirit. "That Gen. Armſtrong will advocate it [the amendment to the conſtitution] we have the beſt aſſurances," ſays this writer: and this writer, the reader will underſtand, is not only well acquainted with all the internal movements of the machine of our ſtate government, but is, in fact, one of the principal ſprings of that machine. This remark, then, will in ſome meaſure account for the appointment of a man to the Senate of the United States, who has but juſt now reſigned his ſeat in that body. It is not quite two years ſince De Witt Clinton was appointed a Senator in place of G. Armſtrong, who reſigned. Mr. Clinton having a louder call (the mayoralty of New-York) lately relinquiſhed his ſeat. The amendment to the conſtitution, having paſſed the houſe of repreſentatives by a ſweeping majority, was likely to be "clogged in its paſſage" through the Senate. Some helping hand was wanting to facilitate its progreſs. The taſk devolved on Gov. Clinton to ſelect a faithful man. This was a nice and difficult point; for the adherents of the "little

band," were now so scattered up and down in the state, that our exclusive republicans hardly knew whom to trust. Indeed, it was deemed unsafe to trust any body without "assurances." This appears from our honorable paragraphist himself; for he says, "we have the best *assurances* that Gen. Armstrong will advocate" the measure. So, Gen. Armstrong was appointed to succeed a man, who was *his* successor, hardly two years ago.——Who now will presume to doubt that "there is a spirit of intrigue abroad?"

But there is a spirit abroad, infinitely worse than the spirit of intrigue. We mean that violent and ferocious spirit of persecution and denunciation which manifests itself in the concluding part of the paragraph above quoted. Such a spirit as this distinguished some of the most dreadful periods of the French revolution; and such a spirit threatens destruction to all the interests of Liberty, Virtue, Honor and Justice in the United States.

"The man who opposes this measure [the amendment] cannot be a republican—he cannot be a friend to order or good government—he ought to be *put down*,"* &c. &c. &c. says a man who pretends to be as great a republican as ever existed, *Robespierre excepted*. And is it republicanism to deny to our representatives the freedom of opinion? Is it republicanism to denounce a Senator for following the dictates of his judgment and conscience, in preference to the mandate of the executive? Is it republicanism to *put down* a man, for exercising the sacred right of a freeman and a republican? If it is, from *such* republicanism we pray to be delivered. It is doubtless believed by many that the proposed amendment to the constitution is unnecessary—others may deem it a dangerous measure—others, again, who consider the constitution as faulty, had rather, perhaps, submit to trifling inconveniences, than run the risk of commencing the work of innovation and destruction. And shall men, acting in conformity with such, their sincere opinions, be denounced, threatened, vilified and abused? Let the people answer.

* "Put down," *is a phrase which grew out of the French revolution. From* putting down *to the* guillotine *was but a short step.*

SALT MOUNTAIN.

Mr. Jefferson's wonderful (not to say fabulous) account of a mountain of solid rock salt, 180 miles in length and 45 in breadth [see account of Louisiana, communicated to Congress by the President] has called forth more queer remarks, puns and epigrams, than any thing which has come to light, under the present "enlightened government," not even the *dry dock* excepted. That such a ridiculous tale, told in such a place, by such an officer, is deserving of the lash of satire, we admit; but we have not yet seen it treated in that serious manner which we think it also deserves. If the story is not true, it may be considered as neither more nor less than a wretched attempt to impose upon the credulity of the people—a handful of *salt* to season a mess of bad pottage—a little gilding to cover a mass of base metal—a dust of flour to conceal a bitter pill.—But to return to the *jesting*—

The editors of the Gazette of the United States declare their disappointment at not finding added to Mr. Jefferson's account of the salt mountain, an assertion that "there flows a vast river of *golden eagles* ready coined, which, at a trifling expence in cutting canals and constructing locks, may easily be turned into the treasury of the United States." They also mention a report that a vast lake of pure *whiskey* has been discovered near the salt mountain, hinting their apprehensions that so great a number of a certain description of their *citizens* may be allured to Louisiana by this *bait*, that Pennsylvania will become a *federal* state.—In the same paper, we find the following Epigram:—

"Herostatus of old, to eternize his name,
"Set the Temple of Diana all in a flame;
"But Jefferson lately of Bonaparte bought,
"To pickle his fame, a Mountain of Salt."

The editor of the Evening Post thinks "that it would have been no more than fair in the traveller who informed Mr. Jefferson of the territory of solid salt, to have added, that some leagues to the westward of it there was an immense lake of molasses, and an extensive vale of hasty-pudding." Another editor (we forget who) conjectures that a mountain of solid refined sugar will likewise be found in Louisiana.

The editors of the Albany Centinel, more generous than all the rest of the federal editors, have accounted for the existence of the Salt Mountain in the following manner:—

Indian tradition, as lately communicated to Capt. *Lewis* by *Logan*, the celebrated Mingo Chief.

Ten thousand moons ago, when the huge race of animals, called by the white men, the Mammoth, made war upon the red men, ~~the~~ *great Spirit* sent his lightnings and his thunders and destroyed the whole race, except the *great Bull*. But he, laughing at the thunders, presented his head to their fury; and after swallowing the red hot bolts, and catching the forked lightnings upon his horns, leapt over the mighty lakes, and about *one thousand miles up the Missouri*, at a bound, where, in defiance of the *great Spirit*, he drank up the vast fountain of the salt sea, which he had made for the comfort of his beloved children, and *red men:* whereupon the great Spirit was exceeding wroth, and he assembled together *twenty Gods*, and they came and seized the *great Bull*, and chained him to the earth, and they stuck ten thousand trees of the forest into his sides, and they kindled fires upon them, and the heat thereof changed the *great Bull*, and the sea of water within him, into a vast mountain of *solid Rock Salt, about* 180 *miles long and* 45 *miles wide*, which is exactly the length and the breadth of the great Bull of the Mammoths—and this mountain of salt the great Spirit gave to the red men for their use, instead of the lake which the *great Bull* consumed—"more or less."

In the same paper we observe the communication of "A Republican," in which the federal editors are severely lashed for their ill-treatment of Mr. Jefferson, particularly in these apt lines—

"Mad to the last, they constantly find fault,
"And bite the hand just raised to give them *salt*."

The spirited attacks of Capt. Cheetham upon Mr. Burr entitle the doughty Captain to neither more nor less than the following eulogium in Shakespeare. "That's a valiant flea, that dares eat his breakfast on the lip of a lion."

Several of the publishers of daily papers in New-York, have raised their price from *eight* to *ten* dollars per annum—and the price of the semi-weekly country papers to *four* dollars.

To Correspondents.

We thank our correspondent, who sent us "An Oration on the Progress of the Human Mind towards Perfectibility," delivered, on a quarter-day, by a student in one of the Academies in this state. A crowd of other matter must prevent its publication until the commencement of our next volume, when it shall appear. We shall always feel a pleasure in preserving such productions in our *Repository*.

Our facetious correspondent "*Obed*," shall appear next week.

The communication of "A Shop-Boy," stating that a certain *wholesale* merchant, who trades in a certain city, sells by *light-weight*, &c. we are unwilling to publish in the Balance. If the fact, as the writer says, can be substantiated, the law furnishes a better mode of punishment, than mere exposition in a news-paper.

To the Public.

As a diffolution of the partnerfhip of SAMPSON, CHITTENDEN and CROSWELL is contemplated on the 1ft day of January next, it is neceffary that all accounts with the firm fhould be immediately adjufted. The bufinefs of the Balance-Office and Book-Store will be continued by EZRA SAMPSON and HARRY CROSWELL, who have purchafed of Mr. Stoddard the eftablifhment of the *Hudfon Gazette*. As the publication of that paper will not be continued, its prefent patrons may be furnifhed with the *Balance*, on equal terms, calculating on the quantity of matter contained in each paper.

December 13, 1803.

Agricultural.

EXTRACT.

From Deane's New-England Farmer.

SIGNS OF A GOOD SOIL.

GROUND that is fit to produce crops is neither too ſoft nor too hard, neither too wet nor too dry. It is light and eaſily pulverized. It is not ſo tenacious as to cleave to the ſpade, which enters eaſily. That is the beſt mould which cuts like butter, yet eaſily crumbles, and has no ill ſmell. It does not crack in dry weather. It is dark coloured, or quite black; does not ſoon poach with wetneſs. It ſhines after the plough: Flocks of crows follow the ploughman, and, as Pliny expreſſes it, peck at his heels."

Monitorial Department.

To aid the cause of virtue and religion.

EXTRACT.

From the Evangelical Magazine.

LAY-COMMUNICATION.

"AT the time when the late Mr. Lacy was paſtor of the Baptiſt Church at Portſea (Eng.) ſome of the brethren, chiefly thoſe of the dock-yard, conſtantly uſhered in the morning of the Lord's day, at ſix o'clock, by meeting in the veſtry for ſocial prayer, exhortation, and conference, on ſome portion of ſcripture, alternately.

At one of theſe conference mornings, the text led to Charity: all ſpoke in their turn, if they choſe, when it reſted with Charles Benjamin, who was a waterman, and lived between Portſmouth and Goſport. His comment on the text was as follows:—"I ſhall ſay nothing more than this,—We have been talking of charity; it would be good to put it in exerciſe: here is our brother, Ephraim Forth, goes to dock every morning this cold weather without a great coat; and here is my ſhilling towards buying him one." The good men took the hint; and Ephraim was enabled to purchaſe the neceſſary articles the next day, and went to dock, "warmed, if not quite filled." James 2d, 16th.——Query, Can the Laity expound Scripture?

Geographical.

LOUISIANA.

"An account of Louisiana, being an abstract of documents in the departments of State and of the Treasury."

[CONTINUED.]

Canal of Carondelet.

Behind New-Orleans is a Canal about one and a half mile long, which communicates with a creek called the Bayou St. Jean, flowing into lake Ponchartrain. At the mouth of it, about two and an half leagues from the city is a ſmall port called St. Jean, which commands the entrance from the lake. By this creek the communication is kept up through the lake and the Rigolets to Mobile and the ſettlements in Weſt-Florida. Craft drawing from ſix to eight feet water can navigate to the mouth of the creek, but except in particular ſwells of the lake cannot paſs the bar without being lightened.

St. Bernardo.

On the eaſt ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, about five leagues below New-Orleans and at the head of the Engliſh bend is a Settlement known by the names of the Poblaci on de St. Bernardo or the Terre aux Bœufs, extending on both ſides of a creek or drain, whoſe head is contiguous to the Miſſiſſippi, and which flowing eaſtward, after a courſe of 18 leagues, and dividing itſelf into two branches, falls into the ſea and lake Borgne. This ſettlement conſiſts of two pariſhes; almoſt all the inhabitants of which are Spaniards from the Canaries, who content themſelves with raiſing fowls, corn, and garden-ſtuff for the market at New Orleans. The lands cannot be cultivated to any great diſtance from the banks of the creek, on account of the vicinity of the marſh behind them, but the place is ſuſceptible of great improvement and of affording another communication to ſmall craft of from eight to ten feet draught between the ſea and the Miſſiſſippi.

Settlements below the Engliſh Turn.

At the diſtance of fifteen leagues below New-Orleans, the ſettlements on both banks of the river are of but ſmall account. Between theſe and the fort of Plaquemines, the country is overflowed in the ſpring and in many places is incapable of cultivation at any time, being a moraſs almoſt impaſſible by man or beaſt. This ſmall tongue of land extends conſiderably into the ſea, which is viſible on both ſides of the Miſſiſſippi from a ſhip's maſt.

Country from Plaquemines to the Sea, and effect of the Hurricanes.

From Plaquemines to the ſea is twelve or thirteen leagues. The country is low, ſwampy, chiefly covered with reeds, having little or no timber, and no ſettlements whatever. It may be neceſſary to mention here, that the whole lower part of the country from the Engliſh turn downward, is ſubject to overflowing in hurricanes, either by the recoiling of the river or reflux from the ſea on each ſide; and on more than one occaſion it has been covered from the depth of two to ten feet, according to the deſcent of the river, whereby many lives were loſt, horſes and cattle ſwept away and a ſcene of deſtruction laid. The laſt calamity of this kind happened in 1794; but fortunately they are not frequent. In the preceding year the engineer who ſuperintended the erection of the fort of Plaquemines was drowned in his houſe near the fort, and the workmen and garriſon eſcaped only by taking refuge on an elevated ſpot in the fort, on which there were notwithſtanding, two or three feet of water. Theſe hurricanes have generally been felt in the month of Auguſt. Their greateſt fury laſt about twelve hours. They commence in the ſouth-eaſt, veer about to all points of the compaſs, are felt moſt ſeverely below, and ſeldom extend more than a few leagues above New-Orleans. In their whole courſe they are marked with ruin and deſolation. Until that of 1794, there had been none felt from the year 1780.

Paſſes or Mouths of the Miſſiſſippi.

About eight leagues below Plaquemines, the Miſſiſſippi divides itſelf into three channels, which are called the Paſſes of the river, viz. the Eaſt, South, and South-Weſt Paſſes. Their courſe is from five to ſix leagues to the ſea.—The ſpace between is a marſh with little or no timber on it; but from its ſituation, it may hereafter be rendered of importance. The Eaſt Paſs, which is on the left hand going down the river, is divided into two branches about two leagues below, viz. the Paſs a la Loutre, and that known to mariners by the name of the Balize, at which there is a ſmall block houſe and ſome huts of the pilots, who reſide only here. The firſt of theſe ſecondary channels contains at preſent but eight feet water; the latter from fourteen to ſixteen, according to the ſeaſons. The South Paſs, which is directly in front of the Miſſiſſippi, has

always been conſidered as entirely choaked up, but has ten feet water. The South Weſt Paſs, which is on the right, is the longeſt and narroweſt of all the Paſſes and a few years ago had eighteen feet water, and was that by which the large ſhips always entered and ſailed from the Miſſiſſippi. It has now but eight feet water, and will probably remain ſo for ſome time.—In ſpeaking of the quantity of water in the Paſſes, it muſt be underſtood of what is on the bar of each Paſs; for immediately after paſſing the bar, which is very narrow, there are from five to ſeven fathoms at all ſeaſons.

Country eaſt of lake Ponchartrain.

The country on the eaſt ſide of lake Ponchartrain to Mobile, and including the whole extent between the American line, the Miſſiſſippi above New-Orleans, and the lakes (with the exception of a tract of about 30 miles on the Miſſiſſippi, and as much ſquare, contiguous to the line, and comprehending the waters of Thompſon's creek, Bayou Sara and the Amet,) is a poor thin ſoil, overgrown with pine, and contains no good land whatever, unleſs on the banks of a few ſmall rivers. It would however afford abundant ſupplies of pitch, tar and pine lumber, and would feed large herds of cattle.

The Inhabitants and their Origin.

The inhabitants of Louiſiana are chiefly the deſcendants of the French and Canadians. There are a conſiderable number of Engliſh and Americans in New-Orleans. The two German coaſts are peopled by the deſcendants of ſettlers from Germany, and a few French mixed with them. The three ſucceeding ſettlements up to Baton Rouge contain moſtly Acadians, baniſhed from Nova Scotia by the Engliſh, and their deſcendants. The government of Baton Rouge, eſpecially the eaſt ſide, which includes all the country between the Iberville and the American line, is compoſed partly of Acadians, a very few French, and of a great majority of Americans. On the weſt ſide they are moſtly Acadians; at Pointe Coupee and Fauſſe river they are French and Acadians—Of the population of the Atacapas and Ouelouſas, a conſiderable part is American—Natchitoches, on the Red river, contains but a few Americans, and the remainder of the inhabitants are French—But the former are more numerous in the other ſettlements on that river, viz. Avoyelles, Rapide, and Ouacheta. At Arkanſas they are moſtly French; and at New-Madrid Americans. At leaſt 2-5ths, if not a greater proportion of all the ſettlements on the Spaniſh ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, in the Illinois country, are likewiſe ſuppoſed to be Americans. Below New-Orleans the population is altogether French, and the deſcendants of Frenchmen.

New Orleans.

By recurring to the maps and examining the poſition of Louiſiana, it will appear, that the lower part projects conſiderable into the ſea. It has in all probability been formed by the ſediment brought down by the current and depoſited on the flat coaſt. There is therefore on the eaſt ſide but a very narrow ſlip along the bank of the river, from the ſea to the Iberville. The land is not generally ſuſceptible of cultivation more than a mile in depth from the river, the reſt is low and ſwampy to the lakes and the ſea, but in general abounds with cypreſs timber, which is ſawed by mills, which are worked by artificial ſtreams from the Miſſiſſippi, in the time of Freſhes. They generally run five months in the year.

What has been ſaid on the eaſt equally applies to the weſt ſide of the river. The ſoil and ſituation are nearly the ſame. After leaving the bank of the river, there is an immenſe ſwamp, interſected by creeks and lakes, extending to the high lands of Atacapas, and occupying a ſpace of thirty or forty leagues.

The city of New-Orleans, which is regularly laid out on the eaſt ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, in lat. 30, N. and long. 90, W. extends nearly a mile along the river, from the gate of France on the ſouth, to that of Chapitoulas above, and a little more than 1-3 of a mile in breadth, from the river to the rampart; but it has an extenſive ſuburb on the upper ſide. The houſes in front of the town and for a ſquare or two backwards, are moſtly of brick, covered with ſlate or tile, and many of two ſtories. The remainder are of wood, covered with ſhingles. The ſtreets croſs each other at right angles, and are 32 French feet wide. The ſquares between the interſections of the ſtreets have a front of 300 French feet. There is in the middle of the front of the city a *place d'armes*, facing which the church and town houſe are built. There are from 12 to 1400 houſes in the city and ſuburbs. The population may be eſtimated at 10,000, including the ſeamen and garriſon. It was fortified in 1793, but the works were originally defective, could not have been defended, and are now in ruins. The powder magazine is on the oppoſite bank of the river.

Number of Inhabitants.

By the lateſt cenſus of Louiſiana, including Penſacola and the Natchez, there were 21,244 free whites, 1,768 free people of color, and 12,920 ſlaves.

Militia.

By a late return made to the court of Spain, the militia of Louiſiana amounts to 5,440. By another ſtatement it is 10,340.

Fortifications.

St. Louis has a lieutenant colonel to command in it, and but few troops.—Baton Rouge is an ill conſtructed fort, and has about fifty men. In deſcribing the Canal of Carondelet, the ſmall fort of St. Jean has been mentioned, as has the block houſe atthe Balize in its proper place. The fortifications of New Orleans, noticed before, conſiſt of five ill conſtructed redoubts, with a covered way, paliſade and ditch. The whole is going faſt to decay, and it is ſuppoſed they would be of but little ſervice, in caſe of an attack. Though the powder magazine is on the oppoſite ſide of the river, there is no ſufficient proviſion made for its removal to the city, in caſe of need.

The fort of Plaquemines, which is about twelve or thirteen leagues from the ſea, is an ill conſtructed, irregular brick work, on the eaſtern ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, with a ditch in front of the river, and protected on the lower ſide by a deep creek, flowing from the river to the ſea. It is, however, imperfectly cloſed behind, and almoſt without defence there; too much reliance having been placed on the ſwampineſs of the ground, which hardens daily. It might be taken, perhaps, by eſcalade, without difficulty. It is in a degree ruinous.—The original front is meant to defend the approach from the ſea, and can oppoſe, at moſt, but eight heavy guns. It is built at a turn in the river, where ſhips in general muſt anchor, as the wind which brings them up ſo far is contrary in the next reach which they moſtly work through; and they would therefore be expoſed to the fire of the fort. On the oppoſite bank are the ruins of a ſmall cloſed redoubt, called Fort Bourbon, uſually garriſoned by a ſerjeant's command. Its fire was intended to flank that of the fort of Plaquemines, and prevent ſhipping and craft from aſcending or deſcending on that ſide. When a veſſel appears, a ſignal is made on one ſide, and anſwered on the other Should ſhe attempt to paſs, without ſending a boat on ſhore, ſhe would be immediately fired upon.

Indians.

The Indian nations within the limits of Louiſiana, are, as far as known, as follows, and conſiſts of the numbers hereafter ſpecified.

On the Eaſtern bank of the Miſſiſſippi about twenty five leagues above Orleans the remains of the nation of Homas or Red Men, which do not exceed ſixty perſons. There are no other Indians ſettled on this ſide of the river, either in Louiſiana or Weſt-Florida, though they are at times frequented by parties of wandering Choctaws.

On the Weſt ſide of the Miſſiſſippi are the remains of the Taunicas ſettled near, and above Pointe Coupee on the river, conſiſting of fifty or ſixty perſons.

In the Atacapas,

On the lower parts of Bayou Teche at

about eleven or twelve leagues from the ſea, are two villages of Chitimachas, conſiſting of about one hundred ſouls.

The Atacapas, properly ſo called, diſperſed throughout the diſtrict, and chiefly on the Bayou, or creek of Vermillion, about one hundred ſouls.

Wanderers of the tribe of Bilexis and Choctaws on Crocodile, which empties into the Teche, about fifty ſouls.

In the Opelouſas to the N. W. of Atacapas

Two villages of Alibamas in the centre of the diſtrict near the church, conſiſting of one hundred perſons.

Conchates diſperſed through the country as far Weſt as the river Sabinas and its neighbourhood, about three hundred and fifty perſons.

On the river Rouge.

At Avoyelles, nineteen leagues from the Miſſiſſippi, is a village of the Biloni nation, and another on the lake of the Avoyelles, the whole about ſixty ſouls.

At the Rapide twenty-ſix leagues from the Miſſiſſippi is a village of Choctaws of one hundred ſouls, and another of Billoxis, about two leagues from it, of about one hundred more: About eight or nine leagues higher up the Red River is a village of about fifty ſouls. All theſe are occaſionally employed by the ſettlers in their neighbourhood as boatmen.

About eighty leagues above Natchitoches on the Red River is the nation of the Cadoquies, called by abbreviation Cados; they can raiſe from three to four hundred warriors, are the friends of the whites, and are eſteemed the braveſt and moſt generous of all the nations in this vaſt country; they are rapidly decreaſing, owing to intemperance and the numbers annually deſtroyed by the Oſages and Choctaws.

There are, beſides the foregoing, at leaſt four to five hundred families of Choctaws, who are diſperſed on the Weſt ſide of the Miſſiſſippi, on the Ouacheta and Red Rivers, as far Weſt as Natchitoches, and the whole nation would have emigrated acroſs the Miſſiſſippi, had it not been for the oppoſition of the Spaniards and the Indians on that ſide, who had ſuffered by their aggreſſions.

On the River Arkanſas, &c.

Between the Red River and the Arkanſas there are but a few Indians, the remains of tribes almoſt extinct. On this laſt river is the nation of the ſame name, conſiſting of about two hundred and ſixty warriors; they are brave yet peaceable and well diſpoſed, and have always been attached to the French, and eſpouſed their cauſe in their wars with the Chickaſaws, whom they have always reſiſted with ſucceſs. They live in three villages, the firſt is at eighteen leagues from the Miſſiſſippi on the Arkanſas river, and the others are at three and ſix leagues from the firſt. A ſcarcity of game on the Eaſtern ſide of the Miſſiſſippi has lately induced a number of Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickaſaws, &c. to frequent the neighbourhood of Arkanſas, where game is ſtill in abundance; they have contracted marriages with the Arkanſas, and ſeem inclined to make permanent ſettlement and incorporate themſelves with that nation. The number is unknown, but is conſiderable and is every day increaſing.

On the river St. Francis, in the neighbourhood of New-Madrid, Cape Girardeau, Reviere a la Pomme, and the environs, are ſettled by a number of vagabonds, emigrants from the Delawares, Shawneſe, Miamis, Chickaſaws, Cherokees, Piorias, and ſuppoſed to conſiſt in all of five hundred families; they are at times troubleſome to the boats deſcending the river, and have even plundered ſome of them and committed a few murders. They are attached to liquor, ſeldom remain long in any place, many of them ſpeak Engliſh, all underſtand it, and there are ſome who even read and write it.

At St. Genevieve in the ſettlement among the whites, are about thirty Piorias, Kaſkaſkias, and Illinois, who ſeldom hunt for fear of the other Indians; they are the remains of a nation which fifty years ago could bring into the field one thouſand two hundred warriors.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Congress of the Union.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

November 18.

The Houſe reſolved itſelf into a committee of the whole—Mr. Varnum in the chair—on the bill fixing the ſalaries of certain officers therein mentioned.

Mr. J. Randolph moved to fill the blank in relation to the ſalary of the ſecretary of ſtate with "five thouſand dollars."

Mr. Chittenden moved to poſtpone the bill until Monday. Motion loſt—Ayes 46. Noes 63.

Mr. Leib moved to fill the above blank with "three thouſand five hundred dollars." Whereupon a debate of conſiderable length enſued. Meſſrs. J. Randolph, Allſton, Finley, Sanford, and Skinner advocated the filling of the blank with 5,000 dollars; and Meſſrs. Leib, Chittenden & J. Clay, ſupported the motion to fill it with 3,500 dollars. When the queſtion on 5,000 was taken and carried—Ayes 79.

It was then carried, without a diviſion, to fill up the blank reſpecting the ſalary of the ſecretary of the treaſury with 5,000 dollars.

Mr. Randolph moved to fill the blank reſpecting the ſalary of the ſecretary of war with 4,500 dollars.

Mr. Leib enquired the reaſons wherefore there was a difference between the compenſation of the ſecretary of war, and of the ſecretary of ſtate and treaſury.

Mr. Nicholſon ſaid if the gentleman from Pennſylvania would move to fill the blank with 5,000 dollars, he would ſecond the motion.

Mr. Randolph explained the reaſons for the difference.

The queſtion to fill the blank with 5,000 dollars, was loſt without a diviſion, when that to fill it with 4,500 dollars, was carried—Ayes 74.

The blank for the ſalary of the ſecretary of the navy, was filled with 4,500 dollars, by the ſame vote.

Mr. J. Randolph moved to fill the blank for the ſalary of the Attorney-General with 3,000 dollars.—Mr. J. Clay moved 2,000 dollars.

Mr. J. Randolph ſpoke at ſome length in favour of 3,000 dollars, and was followed on the ſame ſide by Mr. Skinner, and Mr. Nicholſon.

Mr. J. Clay and Mr, Goddard ſpoke in favour of 2,000 dollars.

When the queſtion was taken on 3,000 dollars, and carried—Ayes 69—Noes 30.

It was then agreed, without a diviſion, to fill the ſeveral other blanks with the ſame ſums allowed by the act of March 1799, to the Comptroller, the Treaſurer, the Auditor, the Regiſter, the Accountants of the War and Navy Departments,

On filling the blank reſpecting the ſalary of the Poſt-Maſter General, Mr. Lyon moved to fill with 3,500 dollars. Loſt without a diviſion.

It was then agreed to fill it with 3,000 dollars and that reſpecting the aſſiſtant Poſt-Maſter General with 1,700 dollars.

Mr. Euſtis moved an amendment to the firſt ſection, ſo as to make it read "that from the end of the preſent year the following annual compenſations, *as eſtabliſhed by an act paſſed on the 2d of March 1799*," &c.

This motion was oppoſed by Meſſrs Lowndes and Goddard. Carried Ayes 65—Noes 43.

The committee then roſe and reported the bill with amendments, which the houſe immediately took up.

On the queſtion to agree to the firſt amendment (that moved, as above, by Mr. Euſtis) Mr. J. Clay hoped it would not be

agreed to; as it decided the principle of the bill he called for the yeas and nays, which, being taken, were Yeas 69—Nays 46.

The second amendment was to fill the blank in relation to the Secretary of State, with 5,000 dollars.

Mr. J. Randolph obſerved that as this queſtion would more correctly than the laſt try the ſenſe of the houſe on the principle of the bill he deſired the taking the yeas and nays; which, being taken, were yeas 82—nays 28.

The remainder of the report was then agreed to without a diviſion;

When the queſtion on engroſſing the bill for a third reading on Monday was taken by yeas and nays, and carried in the affirmative—Yeas 78—Nays 28.

Selected.

FROM THE EVENING POST.

DEMOCRATIC DISINTERESTEDNESS.

WHO does not remember the bleatings and bellowings formerly cauſed by *high ſalaries?* Oh! the federaliſts took good care of themſelves; they took their ſix dollars a day for their attendance on Congreſs, and all their principal officers had got ſalaries only fit for the corrupt court of a monarchy. Lord! what rare curtailings, and cuttings, and flaſhings, and dockings they promiſed us, if they could only once get into power? and how eagerly did the good people believe them! They promiſed in a thouſand forms, that the very firſt buſineſs they would take up as ſoon as they got into their new ſeats ſhould be to "introduce economies into our public expenditures, and give the world an example of true economy in the management of public affairs, ſo as to eaſe the *mouth of labour* from Georgia to New-Hampſhire.

At length then behold them in power. But as Sterne ſays—"the affair of the [ſalaries] kept cold." However the hour at laſt came when it could be no longer delayed; the laws paſſed by the federaliſts at a certain period for increaſing the ſalaries was to expire in a few days, having been made in a time of war and while the expenſe of living in Philadelphia was at leaſt 20 per cent. higher than they then were at Waſhington. Then it was that after manifold tremblings and repeated miſgivings, a bill was brought up for increaſing the ſalaries of the executive officers: Mr. Giles and ſome others having juſt before expreſſed an opinion that the ſix dollars a day for members of congreſs was little enough in all conſcience and ought therefore to be left undiſturbed, as it was. Now, ſee a little management. Inſtead of bringing in a bill in a fair and manly way to increaſe or continue the ſalaries, ſpecifying that of each officer and taking a vote upon it, they lumped the whole and worded their bill ſo as to purport on the face of it, to be merely a continuation of a law about to expire. In vain was it urged by federaliſts that the ſalaries of at leaſt a few of the officers ought, on account of a change of circumſtances and a diminution of duties to be lowered; in vain were they called upon to act ingenuouſly and ſtate the amount of each officer's ſalary in the bill itſelf that a vote might be taken on each. In vain was it urged, that as to the Attorney General in particular, there could be no queſtion, but that his ſalary was out of all proportion to his ſervices, and indeed to the other ſalaries, that his ſalary was originally fixed at 1,500 dollars but in conſequence of the war which created a great number of prize cauſes that more than trebled his duties, and required him to reſide the greateſt part of the year at Philadelphia, this ſalary was afterwards raiſed by a temporary proviſion to 3,400 dollars and laſtly for extra ſervices under the 6th and 7th articles of the Britiſh treaty an additional 600 dollars was granted; in vain was it urged that the duties rendered neceſſary by the war had ceaſed with the return of peace, and that the extra ſervices under the Britiſh treaty were no longer required—the bill paſſed in their own ſhape, and one half the community who only read the democratic papers never knew what was its real import. On that occaſion *twenty one* of thoſe who voted in the affirmative had formerly voted in the negative on the ſame queſtion.

In a word, our readers will preceive by the debates on ſalaries given this evening, that there are not, perhaps, two animals in creation more utterly unlike each other than democrats out of power and democrats in power.

Be it our weekly task,
To note the paſſing tidings of the times.

Hudson, *December* 13, 1803.

It appears by ſome of the Southern prints, that a number of the members of Congreſs having abſented themſelves to attend a *Horſe-Race*, no buſineſs of importance was tranſacted for ſeveral days.

We learn that the Preſident of the United States has received from Louiſiana, a ſpecimen of SALT, taken from the extenſive mountain of that ſubſtance, and of *Plaſter of Paris*, of which articles there are ſaid to exiſt great maſſes in Louiſiana.—
[*National Intelligencer.*]

The Britiſh Packet Duke of Cumberland, capt. Laurence, arrived at this port yeſterday in 53 days from Falmouth. She left there on the 11th October, and brings a paper of the 8th. Captain L. informs us that the ſituation of European politics remained as at the date of our former advices. The ſame "dreadful note of preparation" for invading England, and for exterminating the invaders, continued with unabated vigor; but nothing deciſive had been attempted. [*Mercantile Adv.*]

A gentleman paſſenger, in the brig Dove, capt. Bunker, arrived this morning, informs us, that Port au Prince, was evacuated by the French, on the 8th of October—their fleets ſailed on the evening of the 9th, and a great number were taken by the Engliſh—the brigands rendered all the aſſiſtance they could to the Engliſh, and were of eſſential ſervice in capturing the French veſſels. [*Com. Adv.*]

The Knell.

DIED,

In this city, on the 28th ult. Captain STEPHEN SWAIN, in the 77th year of his age.

At Canaan, on Wednesday the 30th ult. Miss ABIGAIL BRISTOL, in the 27th year of her age.

To ſpeak of the juſt, is frequently a duty which we owe both to the dead and the living. She was endeared to her acquaintances by many amiable qualities, and chriſtian graces; and died *praying* and *praiſing* God. While we drop a tear to her memory, we may ſay to our ſiſters, daughters and friends, "*go ye and do likewiſe.*" [*Correſpondent.*]

To our Patrons.

☞ The preſent volume of the BALANCE cloſes on the 27th day of December inſtant, and the *third* volume commences on the third day of January next. Subſcribers, or printers with whom we exchange, wiſhing any deficiencies in their files made up, are deſired to make immediate application, always remembering to *pay poſtage* when application is made by mail. Our agents are reſpectively requeſted to cloſe their accounts with the office as ſoon as poſſible, that we may commence the new year with an *even ream.*

The Wreath.

EXTRACT.

That Philosophy which stops at Secondary Causes, reproved.

BY W. COWPER.

HAPPY the man who sees a God employ'd
In all the good and ill that chequer life!
Resolving all events, with their effects
And manifold results, into the will
And arbitration wise of the Supreme.
Did not his eye rule all things, and intend
The least of our concerns (since from the least
The greatest oft originate); could chance
Find place in his dominion, or dispose
One lawless particle to thwart his plan,
Then God might be surpris'd, an unforseen
Contingence might alarm him, and disturb
The smooth and equal course of his affairs.
This truth, philosophy, though eagle-eyed
In nature's tendencies, oft overlooks,
And, having found his instrument, forgets
Or disregards, or, more presumptuous still,
Denies the pow'r that wields it. God proclaims
His hot displeasure against foolish men
That live an atheist life; involves the heav'n
In tempests; quits his grasp upon the winds,
And gives them all their fury; bids a plague
Kindle a fiery bile upon the skin,
And putrefy the breath of blooming health.
He calls for famine,—and the meagre fiend
Blows mildew from between his shrivell'd lips,
And taints the golden ear: He springs his mines,
And desolates a nation at a blast.
Forth steps the spruce philosopher, and tells
Of homogeneal and discordant springs
And principles; of causes, how they work
By necessary laws their sure effects:
Of action and re-action. He has found
The source of the disease that Nature feels,
And bids the world take heart, and banish fear,
Thou fool! will thy discovery of the cause
Suspend the effect, or heal it? Has not God
Still wrought by means since first he made the world;
And did he not of old employ his means
To drown it? What is his creation less
Than a capacious reservior of means
Form'd for his use, and ready at his will?
Go, dress thine eyes with eye-salve; ask of him,
Or ask of whomsoever he has taught,
And learn, tho' late, the genuine cause of all.

EPIGRAM.

WHEN men of infamy to grandeur soar,
They light a torch to shew their shame the more.

Diversity.

FROM THE KENTUCKY GAZETTE.

HYPOTHESIS.

IS it not probable we shall have a mild winter, from the following circumstance?

In the month of June and July, the weather was extremely warm. At that time the ice broke away from the regions of the pole and floated down the Atlantic to the southward. The latter end of August and in the month of September, it is well known that it had arrived in the latitude of New-Foundland, as the British packet was cast away about that time by running against a mountain of ice, in a northern passage to Europe.—Whilst it was floating down our coasts, the weather was cold; and it is probable that the ice, which would have arrived as usual in our latitudes, during the winter months, has now passed along and melted away. It is therefore presumable, that as one of the causes of hard winters has been removed, that the approaching one will be comparatively mild.—This may also account for the frosts that have appeared in some of the eastern states during the last summer.—The shores of America are known to be very low, and of course, the continent as far as the mountains would be easily accessible to that cold air, which was wafted from the ice as it floated along. Although it was cold in the western country, yet there were no frosts to be discovered; which was owing to the Atlantic winds being measurably broke in their passage over the Blue ridge and Alleghany mountains.

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